

Baltimoreans. We cannot thank her and her colleagues enough for their bravery.

Despite the vital role the AAPI community plays in the U.S., they still endure racism and discrimination. I am broken-hearted to see an unprecedented increase in hate crimes against the AAPI community in recent years. According to a study by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino, there was a 44-percent increase in anti-Asian American hate crimes across 16 of the largest cities in the United States. In 2021, 81 percent of Asian Americans who participated in a report by Pew Research stated that violence against them was increasing.

One in 4 AAPI small business owners has experienced vandalism or threats to their business at least once between 2020 and 2021, and one in five Asian Americans worries daily about potential racial threats and attacks. On top of this fear of retaliation, there is also concern in the community, as with everyone else, about contracting the virus.

We must continue to do all that we can to preserve, protect, and support the AAPI community. Last year, Congress enacted and President Biden signed into law S. 937, the “COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act,” which formally condemns anti-Asian violence and creates pathways for the expedited reporting and prosecution of such abhorrent events at the Federal, State, and local levels. There is no place for hate in our society.

Today, as I think about my late, great colleague Norm Mineta and all the Asian Americans who make America what it is today, I re-emphasize my gratitude for the AAPI community and reaffirm my commitment to eliminating systemic barriers to its success.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHELE MACKIN

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the dedicated public service of Michele Mackin, who retired on April 30 as managing director for contracting and national security acquisitions with the Government Accountability Office.

For 34 years, Michele has helped Congress analyze the Federal Government's largest acquisition programs, from the Air Force's C-17 and C-130 aircraft to the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship, Ford-class aircraft carrier, and Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, along with scores of other systems and related services that the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security have procured to make our Nation safe.

She has also been a leading voice on Federal contracting issues and a vigilant watchdog who consistently brought important issues related to the improper use of contracts to light. In so doing, Michele has obtained the respect of the Members of this body and the deep affection of her colleagues, who for decades have been drawn to her fine example of public service.

Michele has been a trusted voice on this Nation's shipbuilding programs, and Congress has relied greatly on her clear analysis and recommendations to guide us in our oversight role. Since first becoming a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2013, Michele has testified before Congress 11 times for a variety of committees—voicing concern on the Littoral Combat Ship program, raising questions about the Navy's acquisition strategy for the Constellation-class guided-missile frigate, highlighting risks in the Coast Guard's Deepwater program, and advocating for contracting and acquisition reforms at the Departments of Navy, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs.

Michele epitomizes what Congress and the American public value about the Government Accountability Office: the honest broker. In embracing the idea that oversight of programs and contracts represents a sacred trust, Michele has been a tireless, effective advocate for both the American taxpayer and the men and women serving the government's many and varied missions. She has inspired her teams with the notion of stewardship that the American people should get what they have paid for, that government should operate fairly and transparently, and American warfighters should get the capabilities they need to defend this great Nation.

We wish Michele a fond farewell and thank her for her distinguished service to Congress and the American public.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING DR. ETHELDRA “THEL” SAMPSON DAVIS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise today to bring the Senate's attention to the life and legacy of an Alaskan trailblazer, a woman of enormous heart and energy whose dedication to the young people of Anchorage, AK, was deep and made a positive difference.

Etheldra “Thel” Sampson Davis was born in Arkansas in 1931, one of eight children. After her family moved to California while she was a child, she graduated from LA City College with an associate of arts degree in 1951 and subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of California, Los Angeles. She practiced her profession in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles for 8 years.

In 1957, Thel visited her adventurous older brothers in Anchorage, AK, and fell in love with the State. After becoming certified to teach in Alaska, she became the first African-American on-contract teacher in the Anchorage School District in 1959. As a teacher, she contributed to the future of the Anchorage community at five Anchorage elementary schools: Willow Crest, Airport Heights, Government Hill, Mountain View, and Denali. And in

1965, she earned her master's in education degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 1967, she became the assistant principal at Willow Crest Elementary School. And in 1969—the same year in which she married Joseph Davis—she applied for and was hired to fill the position of principal at Fairview Elementary School. This was yet another trailblazing moment for Thel, as she was the first African-American principal in Anchorage. She later became principal at the new Ptarmigan Elementary and later the John F. Kennedy Elementary School on Fort Richardson near Anchorage. Always seeking additional knowledge and skill, Thel achieved yet another goal by earning her doctorate in education from California's Newport University in 1975.

Thel taught and provided leadership for Anchorage area students and her fellow educators for 21 years until her retirement in 1980. A former superintendent of the Anchorage School District has said of Thel's service, “Etheldra had a true passion and belief that ALL students can succeed if given a rigorous academic program coupled with love and concern.” The Anchorage School Board, in reviewing the proposal to rename Fairview Elementary School in her honor, noted that her “passion and commitment to the students entrusted to her care is legendary.” No better tribute can ever be said of an educator.

But throughout her career, Thel was not only a busy teacher and principal. In addition to her school-based contributions to the Anchorage community, Thel was an active member in a variety of community and national organizations, including the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and National Education Association. She also helped to establish several youth mentoring organizations, including the NAACP Youth Council and the United League of Girls. As a member of the Black Educators Taskforce, she helped to recruit and mentor African-American teachers and administrators for Anchorage's schools.

After her retirement, Thel continued to contribute through her role as a crime prevention specialist. Her work in that area resulted in the creation of the Neighborhood Watch program in Anchorage and the Alaska Coalition to Prevent Shoplifting.

Thel continues to lift students up. Her lifelong dream came true with the creation of the Dr. Etheldra S. Davis Scholarship in 2019, which is dedicated to helping young people continue their education through whatever path is best for them, be it through the trades and apprenticeship or college.

Thel “gained her heavenly wings” at the age of 85 on November 25, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19.

In recognition of the many contributions Dr. Davis made to Anchorage's youth and the community at large over her many years of service, the Anchorage School Board recently voted to rename the first school in which she